



State of Wisconsin
Statutory Council on Blindness

1 West Wilson Street, Room 551
Post Office Box 2659
Madison, WI 53701-2659

Telephone: 608-266-3147

Website: dhs.wisconsin.gov/scob

Statutory Council on Blindness (SCOB) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

**Monday, April 14, 2025
4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

Executive Committee meeting Action Items and Motion Items

A. Action Items

- 1. Action Item:** DHS Staff Support will send the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) letter to all SCOB Council members.
- 2. Action Item:** DHS Staff Support will contact and invite Jill Renken, Helen Sampson, and Denise Jess to the June SCOB Quarterly meeting.

B. Motion Items

- 1. Motion Item:** Jenny Marchewka made a motion to approve April 14, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting agenda as amended. Chuck Fehl seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- 2. Motion Item:** Chuck Fehl made a motion to approve August 26, 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Brenda Brunet seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 3. Motion Item:** The SCOB Executive members will provide feedback to the Chairperson, Patty Zallar. The draft will be reviewed by the Executive Committee either before or during the Engage for Change event in Milwaukee. A final version will be submitted at that time.



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Chuck Fehl made a motion to follow the proposed plan and to draft a letter in support of the Governor's budget.

4. Chuck Fehl made a motion to invite Jill Renken, Helen Sampson, and Denise Jess to the SCOB Quarterly meeting in June. Brenda Brunet seconded the motion. Motion Carried.



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C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and introductions: Patty Zallar, Chairperson.

Committee members present: Patty Zallar, Chuck Fehl, Brenda Brunet, and Jenny Marchewka.

Committee members absent (Excused*): N/A.

Guest Present: Tyler Jerke

DHS staff support present: Zachary Davenport, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources (BADR); Amber Mullett, DHS, BADR; and Ann Sievert, DHS, BADR.

American Sign Language Interpreting Services: Kim Barr, DHS, BADR.

II. Patty Zallar, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M.

- The Committee meeting was made available via phone at (669) 254-5252 with Meeting ID: 160 007 3070 and via [Zoom](#).

III. Review and Approve April 14, 2025 Statutory Council on Blindness Executive Committee Agenda

- Jenny Marchewka made a motion to approve April 14, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting Agenda as amended. Chuck Fehl seconded the motion. The motion carried. Motion Item 1.

IV. Review and Approve February 5, 2024, Statutory Council on Blindness Executive Committee Minutes



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- Chuck Fehl made a motion to approve August 26, 2024, Executive Committee meeting minutes. Brenda Brunet seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.

V. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Wisconsin Residents Who are Blind or Visually Impaired (4:05 PM – 4:15 PM)

- No public comment was made.

VI. Discuss Joint Finance Committee (JFC)

- DHS Staff Support provided the background on the Governor's budget and outlined a few options, including SCOB's current position in the process.
- DHS Staff Support will send the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) letter to all SCOB Council members See Action Item 1.
- SCOB Executive members will submit feedback to the Chairperson, Patty Zallar. The draft response will be reviewed by the Executive Committee either before or during the Engage for Change event in Milwaukee. A final version will be submitted at that time.
- Chuck Fehl made a motion to follow the proposed plan and to draft a letter in support of the Governor's budget. Jenny Marchewka seconded the motion. See Motion item 3.

VII. Set next SCOB council meeting agenda by using SCOB Workplan

- The Committee selected *Mental Health and Social Isolation* from the SCOB Workplan as the focus for the upcoming Quarterly Meeting.



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- The Committee agreed to invite Jill Renken, Helen Sampson, and Denise Jess, to present on their work and data related to mental health and social isolation.
 - Chuck Fehl made a motion to invite Jill, Helen, and Denise to the June SCOB Quarterly meeting. Brenda Brunet seconded the motion. Motion Carried. See Motion Item 4.
 - DHS Staff Support will contact and invite Jill, Helen, and Denise to the June SCOB Quarterly Meeting. See Action Item 2.

VIII. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Item

- The Executive Committee drafted the agenda for the June 9, 2025, SCOB Quarterly Meeting.

IX. Adjourn

- The meeting unanimously adjourned at 4:57 P.M.